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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 20347 161722Z

43
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /060 W
---------- 056605
R 161711Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5143
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GW, UG, PFOR, MASS
SUBJECT: UGANDAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS

1. THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE HAS PASSED US THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ITS EMBASSY IN KAMPALA FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT:

BEGIN TEXT

2. ON 28 NOVEMBER 1975 PRESIDENT AMIN GAVE A WIDELY PUBLICIZED INTERVIEW TO THE AMERICAN JOURNALIST JOHN BRODER. IN THE INTERVIEW, AMIN STATED THAT HE WILL DO ALL HE CAN TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH THE US. HE TOLD THE JOURNALIST THAT THE ONLY MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UGANDA AND THE US WAS DUE TO HIS STAND ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. UGANDA HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US, EVEN BETTER THAN THE FORMER REGIME. PRESIDENT AMIN ASSURED THE JOURNALIST HE WAS READY TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN UGANDA AND THE US AND HOPED THAT THE US WOULD SOON REOPEN ITS EMBASSY IN UGANDA. THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES WERE NOT AGGRESSORS BUT WANTED ARMS FROM THE US FOR DEFENDING THEIR SOVEREIGNTY FROM EXTERNAL AGGRESSION. THE US POLICY OF NOT SUPPLYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO AFRICA HAD FORCED SOME COUNTRIES TO
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PAGE 02 BONN 20347 161722Z

GO TO THE COMMUNISTS. THE US SHOULD CHANGE ITS POLICY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

AND SELL ARMS TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHEN ASKED. AMIN ALSO WELCOMED THE US STAND CONDEMNING THE INTERFERENCE OF FOREIGN POWERS IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANGOLA. HE SAID THE STAND MADE THE US POSITION GOOD IN AFRICAN POLITICS. AMIN TOLD THE JOURNALIST THAT HE LIKED THE AMERICANS BECAUSE THEY WERE GOOD AND FRANK PEOPLE. THE PRESIDENT REITERATED THAT HE WAS NOT AGAINST THE JEWS BUT AGAINST THE ZIONIST POLICY OF EXPANDING ITS BORDERS AND TAKING AWAY ARAB LAND. HE SAID HE WANTED TO SEE THE JEWS AND CHRISTIANS (SIC) LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE.

2. EARLIER UGANDAN MEDIA REPORTED THAT ON NOVEMBER 25 PRESIDENT AMIN MET IN KINSHASHA WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE E. W. MULCAHY WHO IS SAID TO HAVE DELIVERED A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM US STATE DEPARTMENT TO AMIN. UPON HIS RETURN, AMIN TOLD DIPLOMATS THAT HIS TALKS WITH MULCAHY WERE FRUITFUL AND SUCCESSFUL. DETAILS WERE NOT DISCLOSED.

3. TO EVERYBODY'S SURPRISE, ON NOVEMBER 30 THE NEWLY PURCHASED HERCULES C-130 WITH ITS AMERICAN CREW AND CHIEF UGANDAN PHAMACIST LEFT FOR NEW YORK ON AMIN'S ORDERS TO PURCHASE URGENTLY NEEDED PHARMACEUTICALS AND MEDICINES. THIS CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD AS-ADDITION SIGN OF GOODWILL, BECAUSE ALMOST ALL PHARMA-CEUTICALS AND MEDICINES CAN BE EASILY PURCHASED IN NAIROBI OR EVEN THROUGH AGENCIES IN KAMPALA.
END TEXT
HILLENBRAND

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